

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

IN OPPOSITION TO L.D. 639

“An Act To Allow Certain Youths To Take a Deer of Either Sex”

SPONSORED BY: Senator Davis of Piscataquis

CO-SPONSORED BY: Representative LONG of Sherman and

Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, DIAMOND of Cumberland, EDGECOMB of Aroostook, SAVIELLO of Franklin, Representatives: SHORT of Pittsfield, SKOLFIELD of Weld, TIMBERLAKE of Turner, WALLACE of Dexter.

DATE OF HEARING: April 21, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Davis, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Nate Webb, Special Projects Coordinator at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in opposition to **L.D. 639**.

This bill allows a person who is at least 10 years of age and under 15 years of age who holds a junior hunting license to take multiple antlered or antlerless deer without a permit during the years of the junior hunter's eligibility.

The bill does not limit the WMDs where or the number of antlered or antlerless deer that may be taken so it is possible that in WMDs where antlerless permits have been limited or eliminated that harvest objectives will be exceeded. This would prevent the Department from achieving the publicly derived population goals within the deer management system.

Should the Committee decide to increase the number of antlerless deer available to junior hunters it is best done by making those preferences in the allocation of permits within the permit drawing. This would allow the harvest of antlerless deer to be managed within the deer management system and support population objectives. This allows the Department to manage the harvest by directing hunting pressure to areas of the state that can sustain it and prevent over harvesting in areas where the deer population is at or below management objectives.

I would be happy to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.